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January 28, 2013

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and health Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan E. Fielding MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SUBJECT: **Los Angeles City Ballot Initiative – “Public Health Protection Act”**

On January 15, 2013 I was notified that the Los Angeles City Clerk had received an initiative petition to create a separate Public Health Department within the City of Los Angeles and to prohibit the City of Los Angeles from contracting with the County of Los Angeles to enforce any Public Health laws. The proponents of the proposed ballot initiative, titled the “Public Health Protection Act,” include Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). We are currently reviewing the text of the proposed ballot initiative with County Counsel and the CEO in order to understand the impact such a measure would have upon the County of Los Angeles if voted in. We will report back to you as we have more information.

In addition, on Sunday, January 27, 2013, an advertisement from AHF was placed in a number of local newspapers including the Daily News and the Pasadena Star News. AHF also issued a nation-wide press release. Both documents are attached to this memo.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:cah

**Attachments**

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# CAUTION

## LA COUNTY IS A DANGER TO YOUR HEALTH

Los Angeles County provides public health services to 85 of the county's 88 cities. Public health is something most of us don't think about until it is too late. The massive bureaucracy of the Los Angeles County Public Health Department is out of control. Cronyism and bureaucratic fiefdoms are the order of the day and the public health is sacrificed.

Contracts are routinely granted without bidding in defiance of the law. The Sexually Transmitted Disease unit has been gutted of professional leadership. Care systems have been cavalierly overturned without proper preparation. Public health laws are not enforced. Senior staff misinform the Board.

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, the Director of the Department of Public Health, is accountable to no one. The Board of Supervisors rubber stamps his decisions. One member of the board publicly threatened to cut off public funding to an agency that protested.

We are fortunate that we have not had any new epidemic threats recently. However, the mismanagement of this vital function is dangerous.

**CALL YOUR SUPERVISOR @ (213) 974-5401  
AND DEMAND NEW LEADERSHIP AND  
PROFESSIONALISM IN THE CRITICAL AREA  
OF PUBLIC HEALTH.**

AHF



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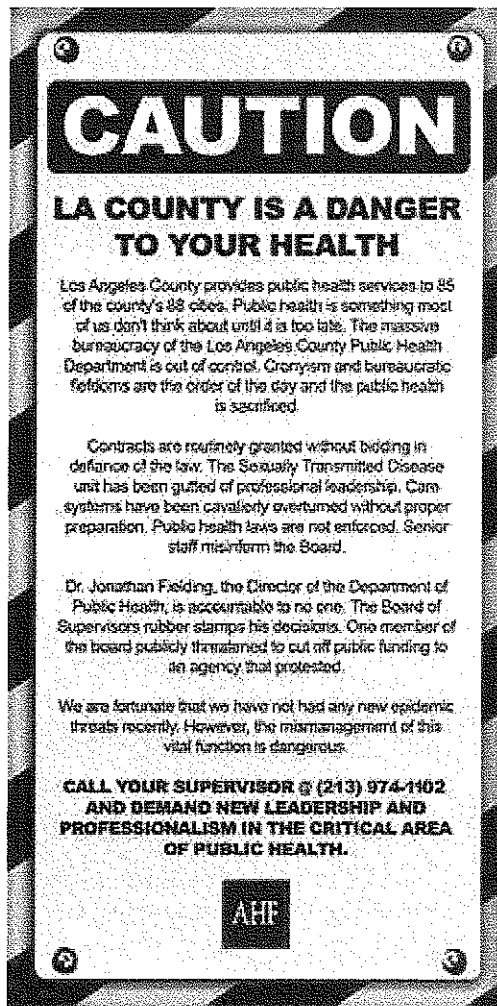
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# AHF Leads Call for Leadership Reform in L.A. County Public Health Department

With a Director who is accountable to no one; unmitigated cronyism and insider dealings; and rampant punitive actions and threats against any agency that protests their lack of professionalism, Los Angeles County's Public Health Department is doing LOS ANGELES -- The purpose of the County Health Department is to protect the citizens of the 85 out of 88 cities in Los Angeles County it serves. But a lack of professional leadership coupled with under-the-table dealings and favoritism has left the people living in those cities at high risk for medical inefficiencies in the event of a virus outbreak or epidemic.

Responding to this blatant lack of accountability, refusal to adhere to bidding laws, and mismanagement that has led to compromised care systems, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the largest global AIDS organization, is asking Los Angeles County residents to call their supervisors and demand an investigation into the Public Health Department's procedures. The goal is that being held accountable to their duties will lead to improved service to county residents and treatment of health partners.

"We are fortunate that Los Angeles County hasn't been faced with any threats of an epidemic outbreak recently, because if we were the current actions - and inactions - taking place within the County Public Health Department would leave citizens open to considerable risk and ineffective care options," said **AHF President Michael Weinstein**. "The dangerous practices of insider dealing and granting contracts without the required bidding process must be curbed for the sake of Los Angeles County residents, and we ourselves must take action to protect ourselves by calling our supervisors."



Business Wire -

In addition to routinely granting contracts to health providers without the financial bidding that is required by law, the Public Health Department has also stripped the Sexually Transmitted Disease unit of professional leadership, overturned care systems without preparing those being served, and failed to enforce public health laws like the requirement that condoms be used during the filming of pornography. The Department's inability to enforce existing state and federal laws requiring this practice led AHF to usher the introduction and passage of Measure B, the so-called condoms in porn law. Measure B forces LA County Public Health officials to enforce the standing condom use laws in porn. County voters passed the measure last November with a majority of 57% in favor and 43% opposed.

Additional procedural missteps that leave the public open to danger in the event of a county health scare include misinformation being disseminated to the county's Board of Supervisors from senior staff members at the Public Health Department, as well as a striking lack of accountability for Department Director Dr. Jonathan Fielding's actions. Accountable to no one, the Board of Supervisors often passes Fielding's decisions regarding public health in the county without any questioning or investigation. When an agency protested this clear cronyism, the Board openly threatened to cut off the organization's public funding.

In a branch of state government that is so vital for the safety of Los Angeles County citizens, such a lack of responsibility and failure to adhere to basic policies is unacceptable. AHF is leading the call for Public Health Department reform in Los Angeles County, and is asking all citizens to voice the need for an investigation into the Department's actions and policies by calling their district Supervisors.

**Don't know what to say? Try:**

*"I am a citizen of [your city] and I am asking you to protect my county health services. The lack of accountability and unprofessional leadership in the Los Angeles County Public Health Department must be investigated -- I am asking you to protect me and your other constituents by joining us in demanding this investigation."*

**DISTRICT 1: Supervisor Gloria Molina - (213) 974-4111**

Avocado Heights  
Azusa  
Baldwin Park  
Bandini (unincorporated area)  
Bassett  
Bell Gardens  
Bell  
Belvedere Gardens  
Charter Oak (unincorporated area)  
Citrus (unincorporated area)  
City Terrace  
Commerce  
Cudahy  
East Azusa (unincorporated area)  
East Los Angeles: Belvedere Gardens, City Terrace, Eastmont  
El Monte  
Firestone  
Florence  
Graham  
Hacienda Heights  
Huntington Park  
Industry  
Irwindale  
La Puente  
Los Nietos  
Maywood  
Montebello  
Monterey Park  
North Claremont (unincorporated area)  
Pico Rivera  
Pomona  
Rosemead  
Rowland Heights  
Santa Fe Springs  
South San Gabriel  
South El Monte  
South Gate  
South Whittier  
South San Jose Hills  
Sunshine Acres  
Valinda  
Vernon  
Walnut Park

Walnut  
West Puente Valley  
West Whittier  
Whittier Narrows Recreation Area

**DISTRICT 2: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas - (213) 974-2222**

Alondra Park  
Athens / West Athens  
Baldwin Hills  
Carson  
Compton  
Culver City  
Del Aire  
East Compton  
El Camino Village  
Firestone  
Florence  
Gardena  
Graham  
Hawthorne  
Inglewood  
Ladera Heights  
Lawndale  
Lennox  
Lynwood  
Marina Del Rey  
Rancho Dominguez  
View Park  
West Athens  
West Carson  
West Rancho Dominguez  
Westmont  
Willowbrook  
Willow Hills  
Wiseburn

**DISTRICT 3: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky - (213) 974-3333**

Agoura  
Agoura Hills  
Beverly Hills  
Calabasas  
Calabasas (unincorporated area)  
Calabasas Highlands  
Canyon Country  
Cornell  
Fernwood  
Franklin Canyon  
Glenview  
Hidden Hills  
Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon

Malibu Bowl  
Malibu Highlands  
Malibu Lake  
Malibu Vista  
Malibu  
Malibu/Sycamore Canyon  
Monte Nido  
Mulholland Corridor  
San Fernando  
Santa Monica  
Seminole Hot Springs  
Sunset Mesa  
Sylvia Park  
Topanga (or Topanga Canyon)  
Triunfo Canyon  
Universal City  
Veterans Administration Center  
West Chatsworth  
West Hollywood  
Westlake Village

**DISTRICT 4: Supervisor Don Knabe - (213) 974-4444**

Artesia  
Avalon  
Bellflower  
Cerritos  
Diamond Bar  
Downey  
East La Mirada  
East Whittier  
El Segundo  
Hacienda Heights  
Hawaiian Gardens  
Hermosa Beach  
La Habra Heights  
La Mirada  
La Rambla  
Lakewood  
Lomita  
Long Beach  
Long Beach (unincorporated area)  
Los Cerritos Wetlands  
Los Nietos  
Manhattan Beach  
Marina Del Rey  
Northeast Whittier  
Norwalk  
Norwalk/Cerritos (unincorporated area)  
Palos Verdes Estates  
Paramount



Rancho Palos Verdes  
Redondo Beach  
Rolling Hills Estates  
Rolling Hills  
Rowland Heights  
San Clemente Island  
Santa Catalina Island  
Signal Hill  
South Whittier  
Torrance  
West Carson  
West Whittier  
Westfield  
Whittier

**DISTRICT 5: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich - (213) 974-5555**

Acton  
Agua Dulce  
Alhambra  
Alpine  
Altadena  
Antelope Acres  
Arcadia  
Big Pines  
Bouquet Canyon  
Bradbury  
Burbank  
Castaic  
Castaic Junction  
Citrus (unincorporated area)  
Claremont  
Covina  
Crystalaire  
Deer Lake Highlands  
Del Sur  
Duarte  
East Azusa (unincorporated area)  
East Pasadena  
East San Gabriel  
El Dorado  
Elizabeth Lake  
Fairmont  
Forrest Park  
Glendale  
Glendora  
Glendora (unincorporated area)  
Gorman  
Green Valley  
Hi Vista  
Juniper Hills

Kagel Canyon  
Kinneola Mesa  
La Canada - Flintridge  
La Crescenta  
La Verne  
Lake Hughes  
Lake Los Angeles  
Lakeview  
Lancaster  
Lang  
Leona Valley  
Little Rock  
Llano  
Longview  
Mint Canyon  
Monrovia  
Monrovia/Arcadia/Duarte (unincorporated areas)  
Montrose  
Neenach  
Newhall  
North Claremont (unincorporated area)  
Northeast San Dimas (unincorporated area)  
Oat Mountain  
Palmdale  
Pasadena  
Pearblossom  
Placerita Canyon  
Quartz Hill  
Roosevelt  
San Dimas  
Redman  
San Marino  
San Gabriel  
San Pasqual  
Santa Clarita  
Saugus  
Sierra Madre  
Soledad  
South Monrovia (unincorporated area)  
South Pasadena  
South San Gabriel  
Stevenson Ranch  
Sulphur Springs  
Sun Village  
Sunland/Sylmar/Tujunga (adjacent unincorporated areas)  
Sylmar  
Temple City  
Three Points  
Twin Lakes  
Val Verde

Valencia  
Valyermo  
Vasquez Rocks  
West Arcadia (unincorporated area)  
West Chatsworth  
West Covina  
West Pomona (unincorporated area)  
White Fence Farms  
Wilsona Gardens  
Wrightwood

If it is unclear which district is the correct one for your location, visit:  
<http://www.laalmanac.com/government/gl01d1map.htm> or  
<http://rrcc.lacounty.gov/OnlineDistrictmapApp/>

#### About AHF


AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) is the largest non-profit HIV/AIDS healthcare provider in the USA. AHF currently provides medical care and/or services to nearly 200,000 individuals in 28 countries worldwide in the US, Africa, Latin America/Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Asia. Additional information is available at [www.aidshealth.org](http://www.aidshealth.org)

Photos/Multimedia Gallery Available:  
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